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PHOTO CAPTION:

Over 75 people attended P.A.N.D.O.R.A.'s "Dinner & A Movie" fundraiser last Monday at Gilbert's 17th Street Grill in Ft. Lauderdale, raising over \$2,000. Organizers and attendees include, from left: Yvette Taylor, Lenore Gilbert, Marly Silverman, Rebecca Artman and Dr. Nancy Klimas.

Media Contact: Marly Silverman (954) 629-0976
msilverman@pandoranet.info

www.pandoranet.info

P.A.N.D.O.R.A. Inc. Hosts Successful "Dinner & A Movie" Fundraiser

Event included launch of online eBay store and auction for a donated consultation with Dr. Nancy Klimas, internationally recognized immunologist with 3-year patient waiting list

CORAL GABLES, Fla.---(11 June 2009)--- Over 75 people attended P.A.N.D.O.R.A. Inc.'s "Dinner & a Movie" fundraiser last Monday night presented by Gilbert's 17th Street Grill in Ft. Lauderdale, raising over \$2,000 through an on-site auction, donations and raffle ticket sales.

The event included a pre-release screening of "Invisible," a 60 minute documentary produced by Rik Carlson and Michael Thurston featuring interviews with patients speaking of their experiences and need for awareness and solutions of their debilitating illnesses, including chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), also known as myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), and fibromyalgia (FM).

"Coming out in public with diagnosis"

For many in the audience, the film and the event itself provided comfort and acknowledgement of an illness they have been told doesn't exist. Beth Gilbert, whose family owns the restaurant, was diagnosed with chronic fatigue Syndrome in 2001, but it wasn't until that evening that she publicly discussed her illness, as she felt it was the right time in her life to focus on raising awareness and helping patients with the condition see that there is help to getting their lives back.

"My family was very supportive offering to host this event at their restaurant to support me, as they were very proud to see that I wanted to give back to a community that helped me," explained Gilbert, a pharmaceutical and medical device analyst and writer. "Being part of this event was very important for me. There needs to be more awareness and in turn, more funding for the ground breaking research that is on the cusp of advancing treatment from symptom

control to understanding the underlying mechanism of disease. Major advances in genomics and proteomics will enable researchers to uncover biomarkers and the signaling disruptions that occur in this disease. It was such a pleasure working with an organization like P.A.N.D.O.R.A. that is helping to make a difference toward those goals.”

Marly Silverman, founder of P.A.N.D.O.R.A., the Coral Gables-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to raise awareness of the plight of persons with chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, Gulf War illness, multiple chemical sensitivities, environmental illnesses, and persistent Lyme disease and advocate on quality of life issues, praised “new” advocates like Gilbert and her parents, as well as the long-time staff and supporters of the organization since its inception in 2002. “For patients, this event is part of an ongoing education about how to live better with their chronic illnesses, and for people who don’t know about CFS, it’s an eye-opener towards better understanding and support.”

P.A.N.D.O.R.A. now on eBay

During the event, P.A.N.D.O.R.A. also launched their online eBay store. All proceeds go directly to P.A.N.D.O.R.A. Part of eBay’s Giving Works charity program, sellers can also auction their products and assign a percentage of the proceeds to P.A.N.D.O.R.A.

One of P.A.N.D.O.R.A.’s first auction items is a free one-hour visit or phone consultation with Dr. Nancy Klimas, an internationally recognized immunologist and renowned expert in the field of Neuroendocrine-immune Disorders such as chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, Gulf War syndrome, multiple chemical sensitivities and persistent Lyme disease.

Attendees were especially enthusiastic about the auction item, given that Dr. Klimas normally has a 3-year patient waiting list.

For P.A.N.D.O.R.A.’s other auction items, visit <http://myworld.ebay.com/pandoraonlinestore>.

For more information about P.A.N.D.O.R.A., including their sponsorship of the upcoming seminars on “Breaking Free of the Confines of Chronic Illness” hosted by ME-CFScommunity.com, and scheduled for June 13 and June 14, visit www.pandoranet.info.

About P.A.N.D.O.R.A., Inc- Patient Alliance for Neuroendocrine-immune Disorders Organization for Research & Advocacy

P.A.N.D.O.R.A. was founded on July 1, 2002 by Marly C. Silverman, a chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia patient. Our mission is to raise awareness of the plight of persons with chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, Gulf War illness, multiple chemical sensitivities, environmental illnesses, and persistent Lyme disease and advocate on quality of life issues. P.A.N.D.O.R.A. is Built on Hope - Strong on Advocacy - Finding a Cure through Research.

For more information, visit www.pandoranet.info.